



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs and Office Assistant Elga Concepcion.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Nicki Bresnayan.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2007-0098 Proclamation Recognizing National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Read

Mayor Watson read the proclamation which he presented to Michael Gilman, Emergency Dispatch Center Telecommunicator.

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mary Elaine Kelly, 40 Plant Street, President of the Groton Animal Foundation (GAF), identified their officers by name and thanked the Council for recognizing the need for a new animal shelter. She stated that GAF's pledge of \$200,000 in donations and grants may reduce the original construction cost estimate of \$1.34 million. Ms. Kelly cited examples of construction bids/costs incurred by other towns which indicates that the figure of \$1.34 million is reasonable. She announced that GAF is circulating a petition to determine interest in the construction of a new animal shelter. The petition has over 500 signatures to date. Ms. Kelly informed viewers that GAF may be contacted via their website, <http://www.grotonanimalfoundation.org>, or by emailing her directly at mekgroton@yahoo.com.

Wendy Eckholm, 165 Benham Road, referred to an article in The Day which reported on Daisy, a dog that is part of a mental health support team assisting people affected by the shootings at Virginia Tech. She discussed how she was able to endure a painful time in her life with the companionship of her cats. Ms. Eckholm stated that on April 13, representatives of the Humane Society of Connecticut spoke at the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments. She feels that the Humane Society located in Quaker Hill should commit to construction of a clinic which will provide affordable services to New London County residents. Ms. Eckholm is opposed to a new animal facility with fewer animal runs than the Town's existing animal facility. She noted that construction costs could be reduced if the Town were to utilize the services of volunteers. Ms. Eckholm reviewed the correction she submitted to The Day for an article published on April 20 regarding the new animal shelter.

John Sutherland, 32 Neptune Drive, stated that there is a misunderstanding about the phase-in proposal and its effects. He provided an example of the impact of a phase-in which is posted on

the Groton Good Government PAC's (GGG PAC) website. Mr. Sutherland reiterated that property taxes are driven by the change in assessment. He reviewed discussion which has occurred about the effect of the revaluation on residential property taxes. Mr. Sutherland provided an overview of his statements presented at a meeting about property tax reform in October of 2006. He responded to a comment in the local press by providing an analysis which shows that the phase-in will benefit the majority of the population. Mr. Sutherland does not believe that 7% of taxpayers will incur a \$1,000 tax increase over the next three years as noted in the local press.

Genevieve Cerf, 17 Crescent Street, thanked the Councilors individually for their votes regarding the phase-in. She referred to a statement which Councilor Scott had made in the Mystic River Press regarding affluent taxpayers benefiting from the phase-in. Ms. Cerf is appreciative of Councilor Scott's suggestion on the bonding for the animal shelter at the last Town Council meeting.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2007-0091 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of April 3, 2007 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2007-0076 Health and Human Services/Met Life Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0082 Revaluation Phase-In in Accordance with PA 06-176 and PA 06-148

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0084 Connecticut Section of PGA Foundation Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0086 Mystic Rotary Club Grant - Arts Cafe

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0030 Introduction of Senior Center Expansion Ordinance

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0031 Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Senior Center Expansion Ordinance

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0035 CGS 8-24 Referral to Planning Commission of Senior Center Expansion Ordinance

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0092 Reappointment of Robert Morrison to Permanent School Building Committee

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0093 Reappointment of Michael D. Kane as an Alternate to the Planning Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0094 Reappointment of Raymond S. Munn to the Planning Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

- 2007-0095 Reappointment of Dale J. Grenstiner to the Board of Assessment Appeals**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2007-0096 Reappointment of June DeCarlo to the Fair Rent Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2007-0103 Animal Shelter Bond Ordinance**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions

2007-0083 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Richard Conant - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Eileen Flynn - \$9.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Suzanne E. Scheurer - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Peter Hines - \$4.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Paul Schmidt - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Doris Navan - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Marlynn O'Donnell - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Denyce Thomson - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Bonnie Wardle - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Various Donations - \$563.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)
Matching Funds - City of Groton - \$1,376.10 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0087 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Mary A. Ray - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Pfizer United Way Campaign in memory of Frank Cashman - \$69.54 - Library Discretionary

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Scott, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.
The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Several Councilors reported on communications regarding the phase-in of property taxes, the Spring Fling fund-raiser for the Tercentennial Playground on April 21, and the Renovation Ceremony at Fitch Senior High School.

Councilor Bond stated that her email address has changed to HeatherBond@tvconnect.net.

2007-0108 Reappointments to Boards, Agencies and Commissions

REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, AGENCIES, AND COMMISSIONS

Councilor Bond requested a referral to the Personnel/Appointments/Rules Committee to discuss how reappointments are processed within the committees, Town Clerk's office and Town Council. She would like the Town Clerk and committee chairpersons to be a part of this discussion.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Child Abuse Prevention Initiative Award program on April 5.

She attended two Permanent School Building Committee meetings and a meeting of the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors. She helped out with the Senior Center's craft sale. Councilor Kolnaski stated that there was a discussion at the last COW meeting of a \$7.6 million tax shift from the industrial/commercial sector to the residential sector which is incorrect. The correct amount is \$5.4 million. The information on the flyers sent out by the GGG PAC are incorrect. She would like for all Councilors to check with the Town Manager to verify that information they receive is correct.

Councilor Schmidt was approached by a citizen about the poor condition of High Street and how difficult it is to drive on it.

Councilor Streeter attended a meeting of the Groton Ambulance Association and a portion of the RTM meeting on April 11. He is pleased with the attendance at the Spring Fling and noted that over \$4,000 from the event will be donated to the Tercentennial Playground.

b. Representative Town Meeting

The RTM committees have been meeting over the past few weeks to discuss the budget. The annual budget meeting of the RTM will commence on May 2 and provide an opportunity for public comment at the first session.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Oefinger discussed the Spring Fling and thanked the Tercentennial Committee for their hard work. The Town Manager reported that over \$4,000 will be donated to the playground. He noted that the Department of Transportation will be conducting a Public Information meeting on April 25 concerning Phase II of the Mystic River Bridge project. Mr. Oefinger stated that there is a special COW meeting on May 1 and reminded viewers that the annual Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for April 27.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting; no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting; no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting; no report.

d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets

No meeting; no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting; no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Scott

Councilor Scott stated that there was a meeting on April 10.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting; no report.

h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik

No meeting; no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

The Committee of the Whole met prior to tonight's meeting. There was a Special Committee of the Whole meeting on April 10, and the items on tonight's agenda are a result of that meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Watson stated that the following four resolutions were passed at the special Committee-of-the-Whole (COW) meeting preceding tonight's special Town Council meeting.

2007-0099 Resolution Approving Budgets for FYE 2008

RESOLUTION APPROVING BUDGETS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
COMMENCING JULY 1, 2007 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2008

RESOLVED, that the budgets for the various funds, hereinafter set forth, are hereby approved and adopted and the amounts on the "Total Appropriation" line are hereby appropriated for the functions specified, and the amounts listed under the heading "Financing Plan" are hereby established as approved budget estimates for the type of revenues specified and include all estimated FYE 2008 cash revenues except FYE 2008 property taxes which will be estimated for budget purposes by separate resolution when the FYE 2008 tax rate is set, and further that a complete detailed document indicating all function appropriations is hereby made a part of this record and shall be submitted to the Town Clerk for Public Record, for budgets as follows:

General Fund
Golf Course Fund
Sewer Operating Fund
Solid Waste Fund
Mumford Cove Special Taxing District
Revaluation Fund
Connecticard Fund
Sewer District Fund
Capital Reserve Fund
Fleet Reserve Fund
Computer Replacement Fund
Human Services Assistance Fund

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Scott, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Sheets wants assurances that an affirmative vote on this resolution is not inconsistent with a vote in favor of the phase-in of property taxes. She is wary of a claim that a vote for reconsideration is necessary because of a change in the mill rate or other circumstances that may frustrate the vote on the phase-in.

Responding to Councilor Sheets, the Town Manager verified that this is a tentative mill rate. The true mill rate will be determined in June.

Mayor Watson noted that the intent of the resolution is for the Council to approve the budget numbers.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0100 Computation of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District (FYE 2008)

RESOLUTION COMPUTING TAX RATE FOR FYE 2008 TO PAY EXPENSES
(APPROPRIATIONS) APPROVED IN THE GROTON SEWER DISTRICT FUND BUDGET
ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted on April 24, 2007 a Groton Sewer District Fund Budget

providing for expenditures, appropriations or expenses totaling \$1,043,767 and estimated cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2008 property taxes totaling \$153,330 be it

RESOLVED, that a tax rate of 0.29 mills is hereby determined as required by Chapter VIII of the Groton Town Charter and based on the following computations:

Total Groton Sewer District Fund appropriations per budget approved by Council: \$1,043,767

Less estimated amount to be appropriated from unreserved fund balance of 6/30/07: \$153,252.

Less Cash Receipts exclusive of property taxes: \$153,330

Amount to be raised from property taxes: \$737,185

Amount computed as follows:

\$737,185 divided by net assessed valuation of \$2,572,891,850 (excludes motor vehicles) divided by the 98.8% collection rate multiplied by 1,000 = 0.29 mills.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0101**Computation of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove (FYE 2008)**

RESOLUTION COMPUTING TAX RATE FOR FYE 2008 TO PAY EXPENSES (APPROPRIATIONS) APPROVED IN THE MUMFORD COVE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT FUND BUDGET ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted on April 24, 2007 a Mumford Cove District Fund Budget providing for expenditures, appropriations or expenses totaling \$10,702 and estimate cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2008 property taxes totaling \$23, be it

RESOLVED, that a tax rate of 0.14 mills is hereby determined as required by Chapter VIII of the Groton Town Charter and based on the following computations:

Total Mumford Cove District Fund appropriations per budget approved by Council: \$10,702

Less estimated amount to be appropriated from unreserved fund balance of 6/30/07: \$236

Less Cash Receipts exclusive of property taxes: \$23

Amount to be raised from property taxes: \$10,443

Amount computed as follows:

\$10,443 divided by net assessed valuation of \$72,386,690 divided by 99.9% collection rate multiplied 1,000 = 0.14 mills.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Sheets disclosed that she resides in Mumford Cove.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0102**Computation of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 2008)**

RESOLUTION COMPUTING TAX RATE FOR FYE 2008 TO PAY EXPENSES (APPROPRIATIONS) APPROVED IN THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted on April 24, 2007 a General Fund Budget providing for expenditures, appropriations or expenses totaling \$114,219,184 and estimated cash revenues

exclusive of FYE 2008 property taxes totaling \$43,436,629 be it

RESOLVED, that a tax rate of 16.92 mills is hereby determined as required by Chapter VIII of the Groton Town Charter and based on the following computations.

Total General Fund Appropriations per budget approved by Council (including allocation to a "Reserve Fund for Capital and Non Recurring Expenditures"): \$114,219,184

Less estimated amount to be appropriated from unreserved fund balance of 6/30/07: \$3,396,548.

General Fund cash receipts exclusive of FYE 2008 property taxes: \$43,436,629

Amount to be raised from property taxes: \$67,386,007

Amount computed as follows:

\$67,386,007 divided by the new assessed valuation (before Board of Assessment adjustments) of \$4,059,759,985 divided by 98.1% collection rate multiplied by 1,000= 16.92 mill rate.

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0076

Health and Human Services/Met Life Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR A QUALITY-OF-LIFE PROGRAM FOR ARTHRITIS

WHEREAS, arthritis is reported to be the leading cause of disability in the United States and is therefore a focus of the Federal 2010 Health Initiative, and

WHEREAS, MetLife and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Programs of the US Department of Health and Human Services offer grants through the Healthy People program, and

WHEREAS, a grant would enable the Groton Senior Center to offer both day and evening programs in Tai Chi, for the education and relief of arthritis sufferers, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a Federal grant of \$4,950 for a program at the Groton Senior Center.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0082

Revaluation Phase-In in Accordance with PA 06-176 and PA 06-148

RESOLUTION TO PHASE IN A REVALUATION AND REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS, the Town has completed a revaluation of all real property for the 2006 Grand List, and

WHEREAS, the residential real estate portion of the 2006 Net Grand List increased from 49.1% of the 2005 Grand List to 57.0 % of the 2006 Net Grand List, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council seeks to minimize the impact of the 2006 revaluation on residential real estate owners, and

WHEREAS, Public Act No. 06-148 permits the legislative body of a town to gradually increase the assessments over a period not to exceed five years, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Council desires to implement a three year phase-in of the

revaluation assessments pursuant to Section 12-62c (b) (1) of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended by Public Act No. 06-148, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the assessment of each parcel of real property on the 2005 Grand List shall be subtracted from the 2006 Grand List revaluation assessment, and the annual amount of the incremental assessment increase for each such parcel shall be the total of such subtraction divided by the three years of the phase-in term.

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Kolnaski cannot support this resolution. She feels that it was a mistake to delay the revaluation and would also be a mistake to phase-in property taxes. The amount of taxes raised to fund the budget expenditures will not change. The phase-in will impact property owners, the mill rate and fire/sewer district taxes.

Councilor Sheets stated that she strongly supports this item and reminded viewers that the State Legislature authorizes the Town to "temper the winds of revaluation". Ninety-three percent of taxpayers will benefit from the phase-in, with the remaining 7% having a slower decrease in their taxes. She will have a large tax increase under the revaluation and increased budget. Councilor Sheets will pay the full amount due as if it were taxed in full the first and second years so as not to create the appearance of benefiting from her own vote.

Councilor Scott cannot support the phase-in because it is not fair to all taxpayers. Residents in the 7% bracket which Councilor Sheets referred to are going to end up paying more than what others will save in this process.

Councilor Bond presented a graph representing the effect of the phase-in on a selection of properties. She stated that if a property's assessment goes down the homeowner will be paying less in taxes under the phase-in. Even those taxpayers with less expensive properties will realize some savings in the first two years under the phase-in. Although savings for these taxpayers may not be as high as without the phase-in, she feels that taxpayers will be satisfied. Councilor Bond feels that her graph illustrates that the phase-in is fair and stressed the importance of utilizing this tool that has been provided by the State. She provided the Mayor with a list of the Towns which she contacted regarding their utilization of phasing-in of property taxes.

Responding to Councilor Bond's comments, Councilor Kolnaski stated that certain taxpayers will be adversely effected if the mill rate is increased.

Councilor O'Beirne stated that some taxpayers will pay more over the three year period than they would have paid if the revaluation had been implemented in one step. He is disappointed that the Council has come to the conclusion that if 93% of taxpayers will see an improvement in their taxes, that is acceptable.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 5 - Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter
Opposed: 4 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Scott

2007-0084

Connecticut Section of PGA Foundation Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PGA FOUNDATION GRANT

WHEREAS, the Connecticut section of the Professional Golf Association (PGA) offers grants for innovative programming, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton's Shennecossett Golf Course could be more accessible to physically disabled golfers with a specially adapted single rider golf cart, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Department of Parks and Recreation has informed us that very few public golf courses offer this accommodation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a PGA Foundation grant of up to \$9,000.

A motion was made by Councilor Bartinik, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0086

Mystic Rotary Club Grant - Arts Cafe

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT FOR THE MYSTIC ARTS CAFÉ

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton Parks and Recreation department has, for a number of years, produced events known as the Mystic Arts Café, being largely funded by outside grants, and

WHEREAS, the Mystic Rotary Club provides grants for beneficial public events and services within the Mystic area, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a grant of \$700 from the Mystic Rotary Club.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0030

Introduction of Senior Center Expansion Ordinance

RESOLUTION INTRODUCING ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$13,310,000 FOR ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO THE GROTON SENIOR CENTER AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

Section 1. That the sum of THIRTEEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$13,310,000) is appropriated for renovations and additions to the Groton Senior Center. The project shall include (1) additions for new administrative offices and activity classrooms, (2) addition to house a new aqua therapy center and changing rooms, (3) additions of a new computer room, music room, and exercise and fitness rooms, (4) renovations and additions for kitchen facilities, (5) renovations to the existing multi-purpose room, including a stage, (6) renovations and additions for the entry vestibule and lobby, (7) renovations and additions to house various activities, including arts and crafts, ceramics, cards and games, health screening, special programs, a senior store, toilets and electrical, mechanical and storage rooms, and (8) relocation of the roller hockey rink offsite to a location to be determined by the Town Manager on the recommendation of the Director of Parks and Recreation. The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, equipment, furnishings, fixtures, materials, site improvements, moving and temporary relocation costs, architects' fees, engineering fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Town Council may reduce or modify the scope of the project and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified.

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds or notes, in an amount not to exceed THIRTEEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$13,310,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-369 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town of Groton. The Town does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of the bonds or notes and all notes issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of such bonds or notes that in each year while any such bonds or notes are outstanding, it will levy and collect ad valorem taxes upon all taxable properties within the Town in an amount sufficient, with such other funds of the Town as shall be available for such purpose, to pay the interest and principal on the bonds or notes

as the same become due and payable.

Section 3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed THIRTEEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$13,310,000). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town, payable as provided in Section 2. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

Section 4. That the Town Council shall determine the amount of bonds or notes authorized by Section 2 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance shall determine the amount of any temporary notes authorized by Section 3 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to determine the dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

Section 5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this ordinance if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 6. That the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

Section 7. That the Town Manager, the Director of Finance, and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

Section 8. This ordinance shall become effective only if it has been adopted by vote of not less than five (5) members of the Town Council and by the Representative Town Meeting, and only if the appropriation set forth in Section 1 and the issuance of bonds and notes to finance said appropriation have been approved by the voters at referendum in accordance with Section 8.12 of the Town Charter, and notice of passage has been published in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter.

Introduced by the Mayor and Referred for Information only to the RTM

2007-0031

Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Senior Center Expansion Ordinance

RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$13,310,000 FOR ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO THE GROTON SENIOR CENTER AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the Senior Center Expansion Ordinance on May 15, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

Adopted.

Town Manager Oefinger noted for the record that initially the COW tentatively set a public hearing date of May 1 but the date was pushed ahead two more weeks to allow for notice in the newspaper.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0035 CGS 8-24 Referral to Planning Commission of Senior Center Expansion Ordinance

RESOLUTION REFERRING "ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$13,310,000 FOR ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO THE GROTON SENIOR CENTER AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION" TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION UNDER CGS 8-24

RESOLVED, the Town Council refers to the Groton Planning Commission, under Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24, the proposed SENIOR CENTER EXPANSION ORDINANCE.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Scott, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

REAPPOINTMENTS

There was a consensus to take one vote on the following five reappointments.

2007-0092 Reappointment of Robert Morrison to Permanent School Building Committee

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ROBERT MORRISON TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Robert Morrison, 325 Ridgewood Drive, Mystic, is hereby reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term expiring 9/26/2009.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0093 Reappointment of Michael D. Kane as an Alternate to the Planning Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MICHAEL D. KANE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AS AN ALTERNATE

RESOLVED, that Michael D. Kane, 52 Jupiter Point Road, is hereby reappointed as an Alternate to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/2011.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0094 Reappointment of Raymond S. Munn to the Planning Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING RAYMOND MUNN TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Raymond S. Munn, 26 Middlefield Street, Groton Long Point, is hereby reappointed to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/2011.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0095 Reappointment of Dale J. Grenstiner to the Board of Assessment Appeals

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DALE J. GRENSTINER AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

RESOLVED, that Dale J. Grenstiner, 246 Baker Avenue, is hereby reappointed to the Board of Assessment Appeals as an Alternate, for a term expiring 12/31/2009.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0096 Reappointment of June DeCarlo to the Fair Rent Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JUNE DECARLO TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that June DeCarlo, 16 Eastwood Road, is hereby reappointed to the Fair Rent Commission, for a term expiring 7/01/2009.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0103 Animal Shelter Bond Ordinance

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF A BOND ORDINANCE AND OTHER RESOLUTIONS AS REQUIRED BY TOWN CHARTER

WHEREAS, the Town Council has extensively considered the need for a new animal shelter for the Town of Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council now desires to proceed forthwith to obtain a new animal shelter, and

WHEREAS, Town staff have continued to pursue the alternative potential for participating in a regional shelter that could be used by several towns, and

WHEREAS, estimates by staff and by a design consultant indicate that a new Town animal shelter may require borrowing that can only be achieved by means of a bond ordinance and referendum, and

WHEREAS, due to time constraints and in the interest of keeping the Town's options open, the Town would be best served to begin the process that could lead to a November 2007 bond referendum for the purposes of constructing a new Town-owned animal shelter, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town staff and the Town Attorney are authorized to prepare a bonding ordinance to be introduced by the Town Council, along with ancillary resolutions calling for a public hearing and for consideration of such ordinance by the Town Planning Commission pursuant to CGS Section 8-24.

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

Mayor Watson clarified to Councilor Sheets that when this resolution comes back from the Town Attorney it will include a specific dollar amount.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 7 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott and Councilor Streeter
Opposed: 2 - Councilor Bond and Councilor Sheets

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Bartinik and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk

Elga Concepcion

Office Assistant